



Pair Of Statuary Marble Busts - Marcus Aurelius And Titus - Grand Tour Period, Late 17th Century



4 500 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Marble

Height : 25cm ca

Description

An extraordinary pair of busts in statuary marble depicting the Roman emperors Marcus Aurelius and Titus, works of high artistic and technical quality dating from the Grand Tour era. The faces, sculpted in fine white marble, demonstrate a masterful ability to capture the characteristic facial features of both historical figures. The bust on the left depicts Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD), the Stoic philosopher-emperor, masterfully characterized by his curly hair and thick, wavy beard, which underscore his reflective wisdom. The bust is crafted from porphyry marble (antique red porphyry) with elegantly sculpted drapery that falls naturally, resting on a cylindrical base in antique yellow. The rendering of the imperial toga and the emotional depth of the face reveal a remarkable level of sculptural skill. The bust on

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the right depicts Emperor Titus Flavius Vespasian (39-81 AD), the same emperor who completed the Colosseum, recognizable by his characteristic broad forehead and beardless face. It is crafted from marble with finely worked drapery in antique yellow, which elegantly contrasts with the antique red base. The two colored marbles create a sophisticated chromatic dialogue, enhancing the sculptural effect of the works. Both busts retain their historical patina and original charm intact, bearing witness to centuries of appreciation by collectors. Their technical execution--from the rendering of anatomical details to the drapery of the imperial robes--reveals the hand of a professional sculptor active in late 18th-century Rome, when the antiquarian passion of Grand Tourists fueled the production of replicas and variations on classical subjects. These busts are examples of the neoclassical taste that characterized the late 18th century.

ATTRIBUTIONS AND NOTES
Period: Late 18th century (Grand Tour era)
Provenance: Rome
Materials: White statuary marble (faces); Antique red porphyry marble (bust of Marcus Aurelius); Antique yellow and red marble (bases and drapery)
Condition: Excellent, with original patina and historical integrity preserved
Dimensions: Height approx. 25 cm (excluding bases)